

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /099 W

-----030318 081250Z /53

R 081020Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9798

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USUN MISSION NEW YORK 517

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 2035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PROG, OAU, ET, SO

SUBJ: SOMALIS WALK OUT OF OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE

REF: LIBREVILLE 2026(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GDSR DELEGATION WALKED OUT OF OAU MEDIATION MEETING

AFTER TAKING POSITION IT NOT PARTY TO DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA

AND WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT (WSLF). DESPITE EFFORTS

OF OAU SECGEN AND CHAIRMAN, SOMALIS HAVE NOT RETURNED TO

TABLE AND MEDIATION EFFORT IS APPARENT NON STARTER. END

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SUMMARY.

1. EPMG AND GSDR DELEGATIONS PRESENTED RESPECTIVE POSITIONS

BEFORE OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE DURING AUGUST 6 SESSION.

EPMG FONMIN FELEKE CALLED FOR OAU ASSISTANCE TO END

SOMALI AGGRESSION AND FOR IMMEDIATE RETREAT OF ALL

SOMALI REGULAR TROOPS FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. FONMIN

STATES: (A) WSLF CREATED IN 1975 BY HIGH RANKING GSDR OFFICIALS, (B) MILITARY OPERATIONS IN OGADEN BEING DIRECTED BY HIGH LEVEL GSDR OFFICERS, AND (C) WSLF DIRECTLY FINANCED BY MOGADISCIO.

2. SOMALI FONMIN ABDERAHMAN JAMA BARRE TOOK POSITION THAT WHILE GSDR HAD ACCPETED OAU INVITATION, GSDR NOT PART OF DISPUTE BETWEEN EPMG AND WSLF. FONMIN SAID NOTHING USEFUL WOULD COME OUT OF MEETING UNLESS EPMG AND WSLF REPRESENTATIVES MET FACE TO FACE AND IT IMPERATIVE THAT WSLF REPRESENTATIVES BE PARTY TO OAU DISCUSSIONS. FONMIN ALSO CALLED FOR END TO EPMG COLONIALISM AND FOR SELF-DETERMINATION FOR OGADEN.

3. AT UNKNOWN POINT OF SATURDAY'S MEETING, GSDR DELEGATION WALKED OUT ON GROUNDS THAT DISCUSSIONS FUTILE UNLESS WSLF REPRESENTED. BOTH OAU SECGEN ETEKI AND OAU CHAIRMAN BONGO UNSUCCESSFULLY MET WITH GSDR FONMIN AUGUST 6 IN ATTEMPT TO ALTER GSDR POSITION. GSDR DELEGATION ABSENT FOR AUGUST 7 MORNING SESSION AND MEDIATION COMMITTEE HAS BEGUN DRAFTING REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS.

4. RELIABLE OAU SOURCE EXPRESSED LITTLE HOPE FOR SUCCESS OF MEDIATION EFFORT. HE SAID SINCE EPMG COULD NOT RETREAT FROM POSITION OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND GSDR WOULD NOT RETREAT FROM POSITION THAT WSLF MUST ATTEND, NO CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPROMISE POSSIBLE. SOURCE STATED HE ALSO EXPECTED LITTLE WOULD COME FROM ETHIO-SUDANESE MEDIATION EFFORT, SINCE SUDANESE WOULD LIKELY TAKE SAME APPROACH AS GSDR (DISPUTE BETWEEN EPMG AND ERITREANS, NOT BETWEEN EPMG AND SUDANGOV).

5. COMMENT: WSLF IS, OF COURSE, CREATURE OF GSDR. NET EFFECT OF MEDIATION EFFORT MAY SIMPLY BE TO DAMAGE PRESTIGE AND CREDIBILITY OF OAU SINCE IT UNLIKELY COMMITTEE WILL DENOUNCE SOMALI AGGRESSION OR THAT EPMG WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO OAU RECOMMENDATIONS UNLESS GSDR ROLE IN OGADEN RECOGNIZED BY OAU. STEIGMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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